Allocation of funds for national afforestation programme

†2791. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the States under National Afforestation Programme during current year along-with the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the area of forest cover increased due to this programme; and

(c) Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) An amount of Rs. 355.55 crores has been allocated for the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme during the current financial year (2007-08), out of which Rs. 51.00 crores is allocated for the North Eastern States. The State-wise fund allocation has not been done under the Scheme, as funds are provided as per the approved Forest Development Agency (FDA) project proposals, satisfactory utilization of funds released previously and submission of necessary documents by the States to this Ministry.

(b) The NAP scheme envisages treatment of degraded forests and adjoining areas for improvement of existing forest cover as well as for its expansion, and is operated in conjunction with other measures and schemes for forest protection, conservation and development. The Ministry has not commissioned any specific study to assess the increase in forest cover due to the NAP Scheme.

(c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages the goal of achieving one-third of the land area of the country under forest or tree cover overall, and two-thirds in the hills and in mountainous regions.

Illegal felling of trees

†2792. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of illegal felling of trees in forest of the country has increased alarmingly; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government are taking to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No alarming increase in number of cases of illegal felling has been reported by the States. However, cases of illegal felling to take place and action is taken by the State Governments as per the provisions of existing Rules and Acts. For protection of forests various measures such as patrolling of the areas, engagement of watchers, constitution of protection committees, construction of watch towers etc are being taken by the State Forest Departments. In addition, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Forest Protection', financial assistance is also made available to States/UTs Governments for purchase of vehicles, construction of buildings, communication equipments, arms & ammunition etc. to take up effective measures for protrection of forest areas.

"E-waste"

2793. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India generates 1,50,000 tonnes of Waste from Electric and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) annually, which poses a serious threat to environment and human health;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that Himachal Pradesh has become a favourite e-waste dumping ground; and

(c) If so, the measure Government propose to take to regulate disposal of e-waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Based on a survey conducted under the guidance of Central Pollution Control Broad (CPCB), it has been estimated that about 1,46,000 tonnes of such Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is generated annually. According to the information provided by the Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board the State is not becoming a e-waste dumping ground. The provisions under hazardous waste (management and handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 includes e-waste. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as